

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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MELISSA M. NEWTON, :  
: \_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff, : **ORDER**  
: \_\_\_\_\_  
-v- : 20-CV-3993 (RA) (JLC)  
: \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOLE FOODS MARKET, INC., :  
: \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant. :  
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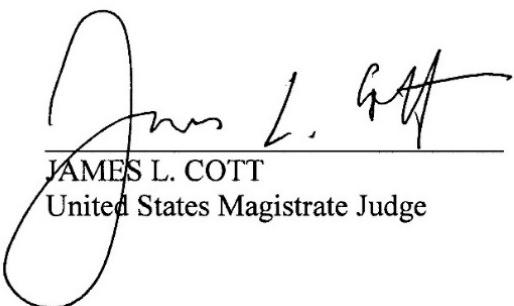
**JAMES L. COTT, United States Magistrate Judge.**

By Order of Reference dated December 18, 2020 (Dkt. No. 27), Judge Abrams referred this case to me for general pretrial and settlement. The parties are directed to advise the Court within 30 days when they wish to schedule a settlement conference. The parties should do so by filing a letter-motion on the docket that indicates at least three dates that are mutually convenient for the parties. Alternatively, counsel are free to e-mail my deputy clerk, David Tam, at [David\\_Tam@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:David_Tam@nysd.uscourts.gov) to find a mutually convenient date for the parties and the Court. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, any settlement conference in the foreseeable future will likely be conducted telephonically. Using the Court's conference line system, the Court will begin the settlement conference in joint session with all parties on the line before breaking into private session and

speaking to the parties individually, as the technology the Court is using can facilitate breakout sessions with each side.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: December 21, 2020  
New York, New York



JAMES L. COTT  
United States Magistrate Judge